



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, August 9, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on the 72nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, saying that Nagasaki Mayor Taue stressed at a memorial ceremony the significance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted this year. Most commercial networks gave top play to reports that temperatures exceeded 35 degrees Celsius in several parts of the Kanto region today.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S., North Korea exchange threats

All networks reported at noon that President Trump used strong language to send a warning to North Korea over its repeated provocations. The President reportedly told reporters on Tuesday in New Jersey: "North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States...They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen." The networks also reported that North Korea responded by threatening the U.S. by saying it is mulling whether to launch a mid-range ballistic missile toward the vicinity of Guam. Fuji TV reported that the President used unprecedentedly strong language to keep North Korea in check, adding that the remarks represent a strong sense of crisis over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs that are advancing far more rapidly than expected.

Jiji Press reported that U.S. media outlets likened President Trump's remarks to the warning issued by President Truman after the Hiroshima bombing in August 1945 that if Japan does not surrender, "they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth." Jiji said although it is unclear whether President Trump made the remarks with the 1945 statement in mind, it is clear that the President is trying to demonstrate the U.S. stance of never tolerating North

Korea's nuclear and missile development.

U.S. paper reports DPRK successfully miniaturized nuclear warhead

NHK reported this morning that the online version of the Washington Post reported on Tuesday that according to several USG officials, the Pentagon concluded in a confidential assessment last month that North Korea has successfully produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can fit inside its missiles, pointing out the possibility that North Korea now has up to 60 nuclear weapons. The network said although the prevailing view was that North Korea would need at least another few years to acquire the technology to miniaturize nuclear warheads, the U.S. paper pointed out that North Korea's nuclear and missile development appears to be advancing far more rapidly than predicted. Noting that the Defense Intelligence Agency also concluded last month that North Korea will probably be able to deploy an ICBM as early as next year, the network said the USG is increasingly alarmed by North Korea. All commercial networks carried similar stories.

- [Cartoon: Kim Jong-un](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe says "Japan-China ties growing warmer" in talks with Communist Party official](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Code of conduct on South China Sea will have no teeth if China takes lead](#) (The Japan News)
- [Vietnam praises Kono for challenging China](#) (The Japan News)
- [Kawasaki Heavy, Mitsubishi to supply train cars for Dhaka project](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 8](#) (Nikkei)
- [Education Minister Hayashi says MEXT will respect decision on new veterinary school](#) (Nikkei)
- [Noda says you don't hit the administration when it's down](#) (Nikkei)
- [No press conference for new tax chief](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Obuchi back in an important LDP post](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Cabinet reshuffle](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe waves his wand](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

Australian leader stresses cooperation with Japan to effectuate TPP

Nikkei took up remarks made on Tuesday by Australian Prime Minister Turnbull, who vowed to promote free trade in the Asia-Pacific region by putting the TPP into force at an early date. He was quoted as saying: "I am determined to coordinate and make efforts with Japan in order to realize the benefits to be generated by the TPP." He disclosed that he is planning to visit Japan this year or early next year.

U.S. Meat Export Federation chief calls for measures to mitigate safeguard's impact

NHK reported online on its interview with U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) President and CEO Seng on Tuesday, during which he called on the Japanese side to present measures to mitigate the negative impact of its safeguard imposed on frozen U.S. beef when the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue is held this fall. According to the network, Chairman Seng expressed strong concern, saying that raising tariffs on frozen U.S. beef will not only affect American producers but also Japanese restaurants that use American beef. Seng also reportedly said: "I hope to hear about some kind of measures from the Japanese side at the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue."

- [Gov't goal of 1 trillion yen in farm exports remains distant as Japan lags behind in food safety certification](#) (Nikkei)
- [MLIT to prohibit "minpaku" operations at condos whose bylaws say "no"](#) (Asahi)
- [Top 100 U.S. companies operating in Japan](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai Online)

SCIENCE

- [Japan slides to ninth in ranking on influential research output](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Approval sought for Olaparib drug to battle hereditary ovarian cancer](#) (The Japan News)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet reshuffle and LDP lineup change had limited impact](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe cabinet support rate at 39%, nonsupport rate at 43%, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [53% say Inada should attend out-of-session meeting, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)

- [83% don't buy Abe's explanation over Kake scandal, Asahi poll](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei Online)

SECURITY

SDF fighters conduct joint training with U.S. bombers

NHK reported at noon that the ASDF announced that two SDF F-2 fighters conducted joint training with two U.S. B-1 bombers over Kyushu when the bombers were heading from Guam to South Korea on Tuesday, saying that the training was aimed at demonstrating the nations' unified stance in deterring North Korea's provocative actions. The network said similar training was held two days after North Korea launched a ballistic missile on July 28. A Pentagon official reportedly told the network that the two B1 bombers were deployed to the Korean Peninsula on Tuesday as part of routine operations.

USMC mulls grounding all aircraft for 24 hours

Kyodo reported from Washington on a story filed by ABC News that the Marine Corps is considering grounding all Marine fixed-wing and rotary aircraft for a day to reinforce proper procedures among pilots and air crews in response to two recent deadly aviation accidents, including the Osprey crash in Australia. The article said this policy, if implemented, would contradict remarks reportedly made to an Okinawa official on Tuesday by the Okinawa Area Coordinator, Lt. Gen. Nicholson, who dismissed local calls for suspending Osprey flights by saying the aircraft flies not only in Okinawa but around the world and that this is the military's policy.

First four planes transferred from Atsugi to Iwakuni

Asahi reported online that four U.S. Navy E-2D Advanced Hawkeyes arrived at MCAS Iwakuni this morning from NAF Atsugi, noting this is the first phase of the relocation of a carrier-borne air wing in accordance with the U.S. force realignment initiative. A total of 61 Atsugi-based airplanes will be transferred to the Marine installation, which already hosts about 70 military planes. Two fighter squadrons will be relocated in November and next May, while other planes will be transferred in January 2018.

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa Area Coordinator dismisses call for Osprey flight suspension

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times reported extensively on yesterday's meeting between Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa and the Okinawa Area Coordinator, Lt. Gen. Nicholson, during which the U.S. military commander dismissed the Japanese official's request for the suspension of Osprey

flights in the island prefecture by saying: “The Ospreys fly not only in Okinawa but around the world. That is the military’s policy.” Pointing out that two Futenma-based Ospreys conducted training on Ie Jima until late Tuesday night, the articles voiced strong opposition to the U.S. military’s “disregard” of the renewed anxiety and apprehension about the tilt-rotor planes held by local officials and residents following the fatal crash in Australia. The dailies also strongly criticized the Japanese government for tacitly endorsing the U.S. policy of not suspending Osprey flights, quoting Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling the press: “We have asked the U.S. side to refrain from operating Ospreys in Japan, except for flights that are operational requirements.”

- [Nago Mayor Inamine to seek reelection](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [U.S. military vehicle involved in hit-and-run accident in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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